

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

Kernan Awards Grant to Goshen's NIBCO, Inc.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan announced today that the Indiana Department of Workforce Development has awarded a \$140,885 Incumbent Worker Training grant to Goshen's NIBCO, Inc. to upgrade the skills of 66 incumbent workers.

Originally founded as Northern Indiana Brass Foundry Co. in 1904, NIBCO manufactures brass, iron, copper and plastic plumbing fittings and valves for residential and commercial markets. Employing more than 2,000 associates, it is one of the largest family- and associate-owned companies in the state. The Goshen plant was the first plastics plant in the NIBCO family and manufactures PVC and ABS plastic drainage fittings.

"As we work to grow our advanced manufacturing sectors, having a workforce that possesses cutting edge technological skills is a must," said Kernan. "Using this grant, NIBCO is taking a proactive step in ensuring the viability of not only its business but its employees' futures as well."

Associates will receive intensive and accelerated training in decoupled molding techniques, which is the best method of molding currently available. Small classes of 10 to 12 associates will go through training each month over a period of six months. Process technicians will then receive an intensive two-week Master Molder training course once the original training has been completed. At the conclusion of training, all 66 employees will receive state-issued Certificates of Technical Achievement in Advanced Manufacturing.

"This is precisely the kind of partnership between government and business that will help NIBCO compete in the world marketplace," added Rex Martin, chairman, president and CEO of NIBCO. "We applaud Governor Kernan's leadership and proactive role in working to make Indiana's workforce the best in the nation."

All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for Incumbent Worker Training grants. The grants are designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, works with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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